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THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 49 www.associatednewspapers.net

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 131, No. 49

Jesse Marcotte has been appointed to the Belleville City Council to complete the term of Kim Tindall. Tindall resigned from the council to take a job with the city.

See page 3.

THE CANTON EAGLE

Vol. 69, No. 49

Canton police continue to investigate two instances of sexual assault against women that took place last week at a local fitness center on Haggerty Road.

See page 5.

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR

Vol. 69, No. 49

State Rep. Lauren Plawecki (D-Dearborn Heights) who represents Inkster took the official oath of office from Michigan Supreme Court Justice Brian Zahra Nov. 24.

See page 4.

THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE

Vol. 16, No. 49

The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance is the current production at Tipping Point Theater in Northville and will continue through Dec. 18.

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THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE

Vol. 16, No. 49

There are no plans to replace Plymouth Township Parks and Grants Director Mike Mitchell who reportedly resigned last week after a prolonged absence.

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THE ROMULUS ROMAN

Vol. 131, No. 49

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See page 3.

THE WAYNE EAGLE

Vol. 69, No. 49

The next greatly anticipated Star Wars movie "Rogue One" will hit Thursday Dec. 15 and tickets are already on sale for the film to be shown at the Phoenix Theatre in Wayne.

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THE WESTLAND EAGLE

Vol. 69, No. 49

The "All American Holiday Decorating Contest" is now under way in Westland and will continue until midnight on Saturday, Dec. 24.

See page 4.

New board says $1.1 million missing

Don Howard
Staff Writer

During an informal discussion at the meeting of members of Plymouth Concerned Citizens last week, newly-elected Township Supervisor Kurt Heise, Clerk Jerry Vorva and Trustee Gary Heitman admitted that their first few days in office have been fraught with challenges left by their predecessors, including nearly $1,100,000 in funds that cannot be located.

Heise told the assembled membership of his frustration and that of the other officials who had only been on the job for six days at the time of the meeting. He discussed some of the specific problems that he, Treasurer Mark Clinton and the others had encountered. Heise explained that the new officials discovered an unusual number of records and files missing. He theorized that the records may have been digitized but said the new officials found many empty file drawers and records binders.

> *"All roads when looking for data appear to come to a dead end."*

"All roads when looking for data appear to come to a dead end."

The financial accounting should have been easily accessible through a $219,275 accounting system approved by the board of trustees in 2015. The computer program, from BSA Software of Bath, was purchased to replace the aging 22-year old financial management system at the urging of defeated 20-year Treasurer Ron Edwards.

Edwards told the board members that the new system would cover all financial aspects of township operations such as property taxes, special assessments, utility invoicing, accounts receivable and payable functions and even dog licenses. The new software accounting system was to handle all financial reporting and management with the exception of payroll which would be handled by ADP payroll services, according to Edwards.

Federal auditors from the Department of Justice (DOJ) in the 2015 audit summary of the equitable sharing program in the township found internal control weaknesses and highlighted Edwards' claim that a new software system would provide remedial accounting for the drug forfeiture program. Edwards said at the time it would take nine months to get the system installed and train employees.

According to Heise, the new BS&A Accounting System, touted by Edwards and former Supervisor Shannon Price as being the solution to complete access to everything while the two sought board approval for the purchase, is not yet fully functional and access for employees is a problem. Most employees are only able to complete very limited tasks and are not fully trained.

"It's been designed by the prior administration in a way that doesn't comport with the way computer systems operate

See **Cash,** page 2

Living worship

Church presents annual Living Nativity display

An annual Christmas tradition in Canton Township will include a new twist this year.

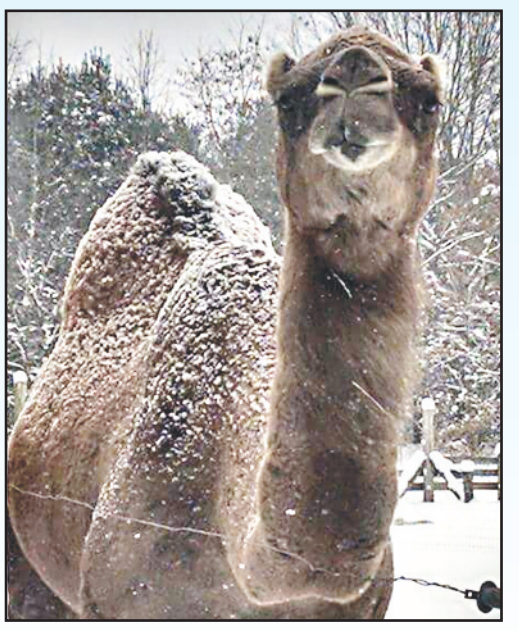
The Living Nativity, a 15-minute outdoor walking tour depicting the story of Christmas will offer translation in Mandarin, Hindi, Spanish, and Albanian.

"This is a way members of our congregation who are multi-lingual can show some hospitality to others who share their culture of origin. We'd love for more people in our diverse community to hear the Christmas story in their native tongue," said Scott Petersen, associate pastor at Friendship Church.

The lighted, outdoor walking path passes through scenes of costumed characters of shepherds, angels, wise men, and the manger scene. Don Fraser of Real Life Farm has provided the sheep, goats, donkey and calf. This year, for added realism, a camel named Humphrey will join the cast from his home in Grand Rapids. Scenes are added and changed each year providing a new experience for people who have attended in the past, Peterson said.

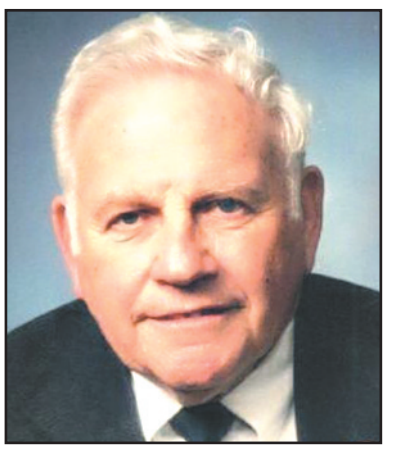
There is no reservation or registration required. Guests can visit the scene any time during the evening. For those with mobility issues, a golf cart is available to enjoy the tour.

The free event will take place from 4:30-8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18 on the church grounds at 1240 North Beck Road, one half mile south of Ford Road.



Humphrey the camel will join the cast of sheep, goats, donkey and calf, along with authentically garbed humans for the annual Christmas nativity scene at Friendship Church.

Memorial service Saturday for long-time Northville Township Trustee Marvin Gans



Marvin Gans

The death of well-known and revered Northville Township Trustee Marvin Gans is being mourned throughout the area.

A tireless advocate for recreation and historic preservation, Mr. Gans served more than two decades on the Northville Township Board of Trustees. Mr. Gans retired from Schoolcraft College where he was an administrator.

A 49-year resident of the township, Mr. Gans was re-elected in November to his sixth 4-year term on the board of trustees. He had previously served on the township planning commission for more than 30 years. Mr. Gans also served on the township economic development and land acquisition committees.

"Marv was very special to this community," said Township Treasurer Margie Banner in a prepared statement. "He devoted much of his last 40 years to public service for our township, as planning commissioner and trustee. He was more than that, however. He spent years with other volunteers fundraising for parks and recreation to improve amenities for the youth of our township."

A memorial service for Mr. Gans is planned for 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10 at First United Methodist Church, 777 East Eight Mile Road in Northville.

Visitation will begin at 1:30 p.m. prior to the services.

Plymouth

Township recreation/grants director leaves job

Don Howard
Staff Writer

There are no plans to replace Plymouth Township Parks and Grants Director Mike Mitchell who reportedly resigned last week, according to newly-elected Township Supervisor Kurt Heise.

Mitchell's departure and his whereabouts have been the topic of speculation for the past three months. Fellow township employees and residents have openly questioned Mitchell's job status after not finding him at any usual work location since mid-August. Many disgruntled township workers claimed that while he was not on the job, he was still being paid by the township.

Mitchell was the political appointee of defeated Township Supervisor Shannon Price, following him to the township from his staff job with the Wayne County Commission. Price created the new position for Mitchell in June 2016 after his appointment to the supervisor's job. Mitchell, paid $63,277 annually, served as Price's personal aide during his tenure on the commission. He took the new recreation/grants position in the township after approval by the former board members. His background check was purportedly completed by a committee including Northville Township Manager Chip Snider, Plymouth Township Human Resources Director JoAnn Coobatis and the late township Trustee Kay Arnold. At the time, Price told board members Mitchell's employment would generate cost savings to the township and lauded his presumed expertise in writing grants. Plymouth Township Fire Chief Dan Phillips, however, said he was unaware of any government grants for township public safety services written or prepared by Mitchell during Mitchell's tenure.

> *I don't know whether he quit, resigned or was asked to leave. He probably knew he wasn't going to stay long under my watch. Had I fired him, I'd have all the details.*

Heise said he was told by Coobatis that Mitchell was "gone" when he arrived at township hall last week.

"I don't know whether he quit, resigned or was asked to leave, Heise said. "He probably knew he wasn't going to stay long under my watch. Had I fired him, I'd have all the details."

When Mitchell's employee status was questioned by residents and officials during the past months, Price dismissed the questions with a quick "he's working" reply.

Records obtained by The Eagle through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request show Mitchell was paid a monthly average of $2,353.85 up to Nov. 10. According to his Pay Statement Report his time card shows his last day of work as Friday, Oct. 21.

"Price was a political appointee, an at-will employee and we're not filling his position, we're saving the money," Heise said.

Mitchell's resume included a PhD in Molecular Cytogenetics, a master's degree in Human Genetics and bachelors degrees in chemistry and biology.

Before working with Price on his campaign, Mitchell was a familiar face in Lansing and in the local political arena while serving as chair of the 11th District Republican Committee. He served as a legislative director for Wayne County Commissioner Joe Barone who filled the remainder of Price's second term when Price resigned to take the township supervisor appointment.

In July 2015, Mitchell was involved in an infamous altercation with former Treasurer Ron Edwards at the township park over the placement of No-Parking signs. Both Mitchell and Edwards vehemently denied the near fisticuffs altercation ever took place when questioned by Fox-2 News reporters. Later a seasonal park employee who witnessed the incident and a former township police officer-park foreman exposed the details of the event.

Several calls to Coobatis and an email inquiry were not returned.

Cash

FROM PAGE 1

elsewhere in the state. We're working with BS&A for training for all employees-we may have to start over with a clean system," Heise said at the meeting.

Clinton confirmed that Plante Moran auditors required "one piece of information," relating to the long overdue 2015 township audit and the missing $1.1 million. The audit was due June 30 and the state is now withholding revenue sharing funds. Clinton said he believes the glitch was somewhere in the reconciliation of the property taxes and pointed out that it was the clerk's responsibility to maintain the General Ledger, a job Edwards had assumed. Clinton said it's too early to say the money is truly missing, only that it is not where it is supposed to be and has not been located.

Clinton said he was not suggesting there was anything illegal and that it was something the Plante Moran auditors found.

"We don't know. I don't know what I don't know yet," Clinton said. "I'm not suggesting anything illegal."

In a revealing report letter drafted Nov. 20, Plante Moran auditors noted significant differences between bank statements and the general ledger that were not identified or corrected until three days before the new board took over.

"The amount of the difference was $1,100,000 more than the general ledger reported. When we investigated, it turned out to represent property tax collections that had been transferred to the General Fund but not recorded as such," the auditors noted in the report.

Vorva said they are very busy "spending time on tasks that have to get done," pointing to the township audit, zoning issues, computer access for all employees and FOIA requests.

"When you don't have a good accounting trail-we have to ferret that out, we're going to be reconciling bank statements, but we have to get the audit done," Vorva said.

The newly-elected clerk said he's not complaining, but, "there was no transition" when he took control. "Nancy (Conzelman) never responded." He blames the assumption that Conzelman thought she had a valid excuse not to respond after she announced she was running as a write-in candidate, "obviously thinking she was going to be re-elected."

"We just have to get things done, and change the process-it's too soon to say there was any wrongdoing," Vorva said. "I question how things were done and how things are supposed to work."

Vorva cited certain accounting practices and one major concern he has is the mailing of township bank statements to post office boxes.

"I'm working with the treasurer and Plante Moran to finish the audit. The detail just was not there…How do you lose checks? Was it gross negligence? It's no question there was sloppy bookkeeping."

There are 17 bank depositories on record for township funds, accounts that were established by Edwards. Clinton said that at the Dec. 6 board meeting the board will be asked to approve next years bank depositories and he believes that number will go to four from the current 17.

Heise said he didn't want to label anything as gross negligence. "I can't make that determination now, but they've made us work a lot harder."

Heitman said he fears there might be a time when the taxpayers could have to make up the loss, but added that he was only speculating.

The three officials urged the citizens group to continue their meetings and watchdog efforts. The group agreed to continue their meetings, after the first of the year on a bi-monthly basis beginning in January at the Plymouth Library and other locations to be announced.

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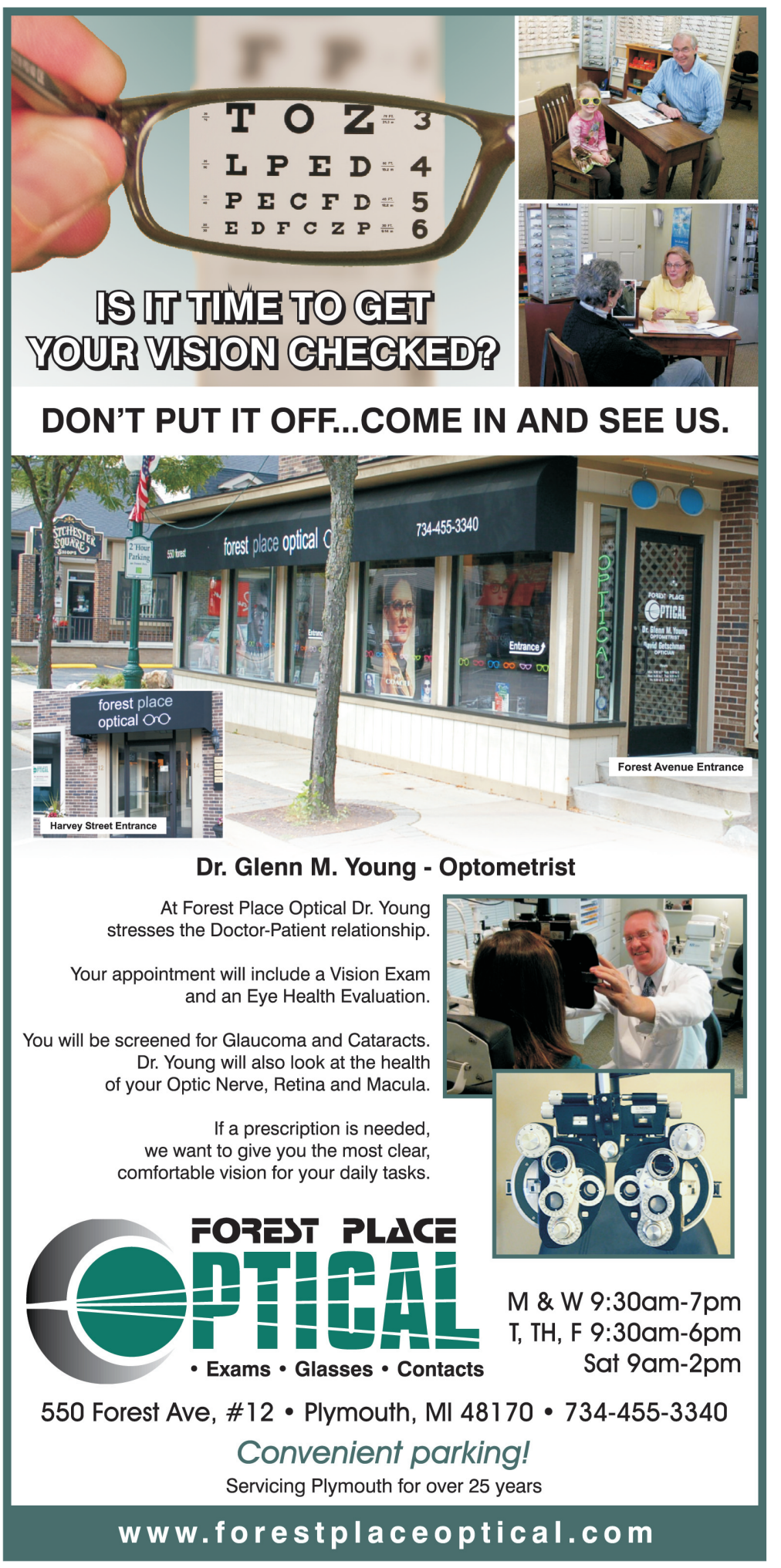
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BELLEVILLE - ROMULUS

Re-zoning of Vining Road land discussed

Members of the Romulus City Council and Planning Commission put their heads together last week to talk about a vast tract of undeveloped land with a lot of potential-and few suitors.

The two bodies met in a study session to discuss the Vining Road Development District, which is between I-94 and Ecorse Road and Wayne and Merriman roads.

The issue came up in part because a developer, the Kojanian Company, had requested rezoning for about 140 acres that fronts Ecorse Road, said Tim Keyes, economic development director for Romulus.

"Since we're updating the master plan anyway, we thought it would be a good opportunity to talk about this," said Keyes. "We're looking for some direction."

There is about 1,000 acres of undeveloped land in the area and it is currently zoned for Regional Center uses, which are primarily retail, restaurant and hotel-related. The Kojanian Co. is requesting a rezoning to M-1, which would allow for light industrial uses, so they could construct a three-building, 900,000-square-foot warehouse development.

The city is currently updating the zoning master plan and, when the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the draft amendment to the Master Plan on Sept. 19, they tabled action and requested that a study session be scheduled with the city council members to discuss the Vining Road Development area.

It might make sense, Keyes said, to alter the zoning of the entire parcel to attract different types of developments that would bring jobs and additional tax base to the community. The Regional Center zoning has existed for more than 20 years without attracting much defined interest-other than the regional outlet center announced last year.

The joint planning session was just a discussion, however. The planning commission has not yet made a recommendation for the council to act on.

"We haven't reached a consensus, yet," said Keyes.

Local chorus honored

The Belleville Community Chorus was honored by the Wayne County Council for Arts History and Humanities last week at their annual recognition award ceremony. The chorus was presented with the prestigious Artist Group Performer Award at a reception and ceremonies at the Wayne County Community College Downriver Campus. Chorus President Pete Jones, Director Susan Hiser, holding the award, and many of the chorus members were on hand for the event. This was the 19th year that the arts and humanities council has honored individuals and groups for contributions in a variety of disciplines related to art, history and humanities. The local award-winning chorus will perform the Home for the Holidays winter concert at 7 p.m. Dec. 10 at The First Methodist Church in Belleville located at 417 Charles St.

Mayors' Ball tickets on sale

The fourth annual Mayors' Ball is planned for 5 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017.

The event, hosted by Belleville Mayor Kerreen Conley and Romulus Mayor LeRoy D. Burcroff will take place at the Belleville Yacht Club and include dancing, food, refreshments and silent and live auctions.

The event is an annual benefit for the Romulus and Belleville Boys and Girls clubs.

Cocktails will be served beginning at 5 and the dinner and auctions are scheduled to begin at 6 p.m.

Tickets for the event are $100 per person and must be purchased in advance. The donation includes dinner an open bar and entertainment.

For tickets, contact Rob McLachlan at (734) 578-5682 or rwmclachlan@gmail.com.

"We'll have plenty of unique and valuable items for our auctions," McLachlan said.

Dress for the event is business/cocktail.

The Belleville Yacht Club is located at 831 E. Huron River Dr. in Belleville.

Council fills vacant seat

Jesse Marcotte has been appointed to the Belleville City Council to complete the term of Kim Tindall. Tindall resigned from the council to take a job with the city to avoid any conflict of interest.

City officials interviewed five candidates who expressed an interest in serving on the council and selected Marcotte for the appointment last month. Others who applied included Randy Priest, Jeff Vernon, Kelly Bates and Martha Brown, all Belleville residents.

The four members of the city council rated each candidate with numerical scores following the interviews and consideration of their experience, education and other qualifications. Marcotte was the first choice of each of the officials.

Marcotte is a firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician with Northville Township. His family moved from Detroit to Van Buren Township when he was 5.

After serving as a member of the Van Buren Township Fire Explorers squad during his years at Belleville High School. He worked with the Belleville Fire Department and took college courses at night while a high school senior to successfully earn his EMT license just prior to graduation.

He worked as a firefighter with Van Buren Township at 19 and then transferred to Northville Township. He has served on the city planning commission for eight years and is also an athletic coach.

Marcotte has been a Belleville resident for 10 years.

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MINUTES OF REGULAR ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 14, 2016

Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Rd. Romulus, MI 48174

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem John Barden.
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Present: Kathleen Abdo, John Barden, Linda Choate, Harry Crout, Celeste Roscoe, William Wadsworth.
Excused: Sylvia Makowski.
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
LeRoy D. Burcroff
Stacy Paige, Treasurer
Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk
1. Moved by **Crout,** seconded by **Roscoe** to accept the agenda as amended.
Motion Carried Unanimously.
16-451 2A. Moved by **Wadsworth**, seconded by **Abdo** to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on November 7, 2016. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
3. Petitioner:
Mr. Robert LaBel and Mr. Jud Chaille represented Verizon Wireless regarding the company's special land use request.
16-452 3A. Moved by **Roscoe,** seconded by **Wadsworth,** to approve a special land use request from Verizon Wireless/ERS Telecom for a 195 foot high monopole cellular telephone tower and associated communication facility equipment at 38600 Northline Road. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
4. Chairperson's Report:
Rosemary Boatwright, from Helping Hands in Romulus, spoke about the need for donations to Helping Hands. Helping Hands is opened Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.
16-453 4A. Moved by **Abdo,** seconded by **Crout** to approve the Letters of Understanding with both the POAM and POLC to extend their respective union contracts under the terms presented in the Letters of Understanding. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
4. Moved by **Roscoe,** seconded by **Choate** to accept the Chairperson's Report. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
5. Mayor's Report:
Mayor Burcroff spoke about Veteran's Day; and, he presented a video of upcoming events in the City of Romulus.
16-454 5A. Moved by **Wadsworth,** seconded by **Roscoe** to concur with the administration and authorize the mayor and clerk to enter into a service agreement with the Downriver Utility Wastewater Authority (DUWA). **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-455 5B. Moved by **Crout,** seconded by **Roscoe** to concur with the administration and approve the re-appointment of Craig Plank to the Cemetery Board of Trustees with a term to expire on November 1, 2021. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-456 5C. Moved by **Roscoe,** seconded by **Crout** to concur with the administration and approve the reappointment of Stanley Bragg to the Police, Fire and Safety Commission with a term to expire on February 11, 2019. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
6A. Clerk's Report:
Clerk Ellen Craig-Bragg thanked everyone who helped during the November Election.
16-457 6A1. Moved by **Wadsworth,** seconded by **Abdo** to approve second reading, final adoption of Budget Amendment 16/17-13, Community Employee Activity Fund. This budget amendment was introduced at the Council meeting of November 7, 2016. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
6-458 6A2. Moved by **Roscoe,** seconded by **Choate** to approve second reading, final adoption of Budget Amendment 16/17-14, DDA Goddard Road Construction Fund. This budget amendment was introduced at the Council meeting of November 7, 2016. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-459 6A3. Moved by **Wadsworth** seconded by **Crout** to approve second reading, final adoption of Budget Amendment 16/17-15, CDBG Community Development Block Grant. This budget amendment was introduced at the Council meeting of November 7, 2016. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-460 6A4. Moved by **Choate,** seconded by **Abdo** approve the reappointment of Debra Hoffman and Shirley Lamberson to the Board of Review with their terms to commence on January 1, 2017 and to expire on December 31, 2018. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-461 6A5. Moved by **Roscoe,** seconded by **Wadsworth** to schedule a public hearing on Monday, December 12, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. for Demolition List 16-01. The public hearing will be held in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-462 6A6. Moved by **Roscoe,** seconded by **Abdo** to introduce (first reading) of City of Romulus Purchasing Ordinance amendment and to add two new sections: Section 39-14, Local Preference Provisions, and Section 39-15, Insurance Coverages. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
6B. Treasurer's Report:
City Treasurer, Stacy Paige, spoke about the City's Quarterly Investment Reports.
7. Public Comment:
Helen Gregory thanked the City administrative and legislative bodies for their continued support of the Romulus Civic League and for joining the League in celebration of their 70th Anniversary. Jan Lemmon, Cemetery Board Chairperson, announced that a fundraiser spaghetti dinner will be held at the VFW Hall on Friday, December 2, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. with all proceeds to go to a disabled veteran and his family.
8. Unfinished Business:
Councilman Wadsworth gave a reminder to those who may be looking for a cat or dog for Christmas, to check with the Animal Shelter for a pet.
9. New Business
10. Communication
16-463 11A. Moved by **Choate,** seconded by **Crout** to pay Warrant 16-21 in the amount of $1,693,037.90. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-464 11B. Moved by **Choate,** seconded by **Roscoe** to pay Warrant 16-21E in the amount of $17,677.00. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
12. Moved by **Wadsworth,** seconded by **Roscoe** to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
I, Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on November 14, 2016.

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Inkster - Wayne - Westland

Super 'star'

Local theater presents latest Star Wars film

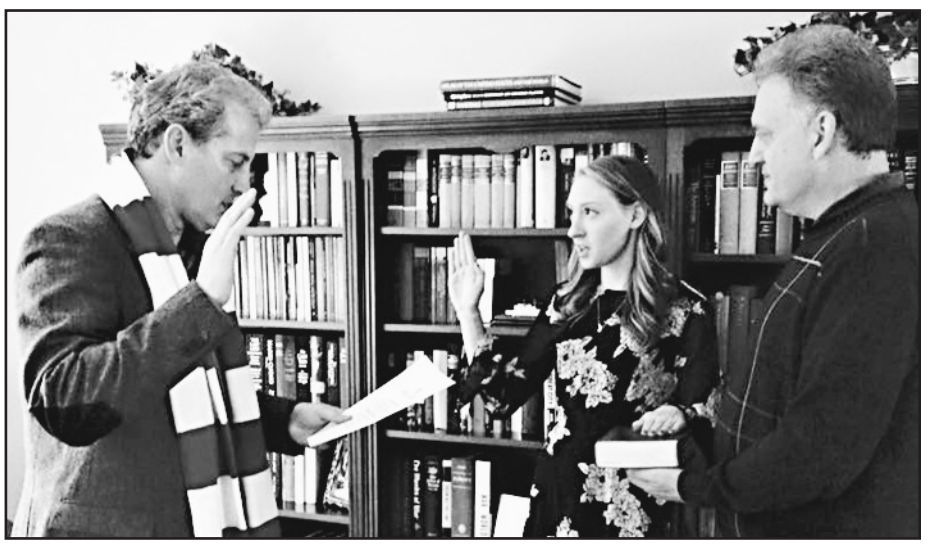
The next greatly anticipated Star Wars movie "Rogue One" will hit Thursday Dec. 15 and tickets are already on sale for the film.

Tickets for those who want to be sure they attend the first showing went on last Monday and sales were reportedly brisk on Cyber Monday.

The Phoenix Theatre in Wayne will be among the only known Midwest movie theater chain that will keep the doors open all night long Dec. 15, playing for 30 continuous hours. All three Phoenix locations wills show the film continuously, catering to those who might miss out on the first showing yet cannot wait another minute to the latest film from the galaxy far, far, away.

Keeping up with the tradition, Phoenix Theatres will also have Rogue One popcorn tins available for purchase at the concessions stand and $1 from each tin sold will be donated to the Make a Wish Foundation

"Due to the national ground swell of demand for this film and the massive excitement the Star Wars brand always generates, Phoenix Theatres will continue its new tradition with our 2nd Annual 30-hour Star Wars marathon at all three locations, in Livonia, Monroe and Wayne," said Phoenix Theatres President Cory Jacobson.



Now official

State Rep. Lauren Plawecki (D-Dearborn Heights), center, takes the oath of office from Michigan Supreme Court Justice Brian Zahra, left, Nov. 24, while Plawecki's father, Mark Plawecki, holds the Bible and looks on. Plawecki represents the 11th District, which comprises all of Garden City and Inkster, and portions of Dearborn Heights, Livonia and Westland. "It is an amazing honor to assume the office of state representative, and I'm so thankful to have this opportunity," Plawecki said. "I will make the most of my time in office by diligently serving the residents of the 11th House District." Plawecki fills the seat vacated by former state Rep. Julie Plawecki, who died earlier this year. Plawecki graduated with highest honors from the University of Michigan, earning a bachelor's degree in art history. She has worked in art museums across the globe, including the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence, the Guggenheim Museum in New York and the Norton Simon Museum in California.

Playground upgrade OK'd

The Westland City Council has approved a matching grant funds proposal from GameTime/Sinclair Recreation for the purchase and installation of a custom hybrid playground structure at Jaycee Park. The structure is for children ages 5-12. The matching funds grant will be paid for with the amount already approved in the existing 2016-2017 budget and will not exceed $20,000.

'Jaycee Park is one of Westland's most popular and frequently used parks," stated Mayor William Wild. "This new, modern play structure will be a nice addition to this neighborhood park."

The equipment was scheduled for order at the end of November and will be ready to be installed in April, according to Wild's office.

The unanimous approval took place at a regular meeting of the council last month.

Holiday contest under way

The "All American Holiday Decorating Contest" is now under way in Westland and will continue until midnight on Saturday, Dec. 24. Residents can visit the City of Westland website to nominate themselves or a friend in one or all of the three categories: Best Traditional Display, Most Creative Display and Over the Top Display. Nominees will be asked to enter a picture along with their submission.

Entries will also be accepted from posts on twitter or instagram, tagging @CityofWestland and using the hashtag #westlandholidaypride.

Anyone can go onto the website, view the entries and vote for their favorite holiday decorating display. Voting will close at midnight on Christmas Eve.

Winners will be announced and awarded prizes at the Jan. 9 meeting of the Westland City Council.

"One of my favorite memories of the holidays growing up in Westland was driving around with my parents to look at the holiday lights and decorations," commented Mayor William Wild. "We have a lot of creative, festive residents here and I am excited to see what everyone comes up with."

Classified

01. Obituaries
02. In Memoriam
03. Cards of Thanks
04. Monuments & Cemetery Plots
05. Personals/Announcements
06. Legal Notices
07. Attorneys
08. Entertainment
09. Lost & Found
10. Coming Events
30. Help Wanted
31. Help Wanted Sales
32. Help Wanted Drivers
33. Child Care
34. Specialized Services
35. Situations Wanted
40. Business Opportunity
42. Health and Fitness
43. Money to Loan
44. Music/Art Lessons
45. Adult Care
46. Private Schools/Instruction
47. Riding/Horses/Stables
50. Pets & Supplies
54. Rummage Sales
55. Estate Sales
56. Flea Markets
57. Antiques
58. Garage and Yard Sales
59. Auctions
60. Moving Sales
61. Misc. Items
62. Building Supplies
63. Business and OfficeEquipment
64. Lawn & Garden Supplies
65. Tree Service
66. Landscape / Nurseries
67. Garden Plant / Supplies
68. Garden / Produce
70. Masonry / Brickwork
72. Cleaning Services
73. Musical Merchandise
74. Sporting Goods
75. Boats / Accessories
76. Remodeling & Renovations
77. Recreation Vehicles
78. Hunting / Fishing
82. Wanted to Buy
87. Room for Rent
88. Duplexes for Rent
89. Apartments for Rent
90. Condos/Townhouses for Rent
92. Business Places for Rent
93. Banquet Halls
94. Farm Land for Rent
95. Real Estate
96. Houses for Rent
97. Cottages for Rent
98. Manufactured/Mobile Homes
99. Flats for Rent
100. Will Share
101. Wanted to Rent
102. Storage
103. Business Property for Sale
104. Farms & Acreage for Sale
105. Mobile Homes for Sale
106. Houses for Sale
107. Condos/Townhouses for Sale
108. Lake and Resort
109. Income Property
110. Lots for Sale
111. Out of State Property
112. Commercial Lease
113. Real Estate Wanted
114. Auto Accessories
115. Autos for Sale
116. Antique & Classic Cars
117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
118. Freebies
119. Auto Repairs
120. Motorcycles
121. Autos Wanted

32. Help Wanted Drivers

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59. Auctions

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TRL
2003 HYD
KMHDN55D93U095291
2001 GMC
1GKEK13T21J165771
2008 FORD
1FAHP35N68W104334
2001 FORD
1FAFP52U71A203892
2005 JEEP
1J8GR48R35C715418
1998 PINE
1PNV532BXWH208329
2012 DODGE
2C3CDXBG8CH132027
TRL HYD
1996 TRAIL MASTER
1PTG1JAH2T6001478
2012 DODGE
2C3CDXBG8CH132027
2003 CHEV
1GNDS13S232166258
1988 CHEV
1GCDC14HXJZ238692
CAD
1G6DM577640180695
CHRY
3C8FY4BB91T309025
2002 FORD
1FAFP55U72G133112
2003 DODGE
1D4GP24383B246316
2002 FORD
1FAFP55U62A227596
2005 DODGE
1D7HW48K25S226721
1998 CAD
1G6KY5491WU913653
PONT
2G2WP552X61178464

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HOLIDAY help needed

With the holiday season fast approaching, the shelves at Romulus Helping Hands are all but bare.

Councilman Harry Crout pointed out recently that the community food pantry is in need of donations to help needy families throughout the city.

"If you look in to your refrigerator and see food, you're blessed," he said. "A lot of people aren't that blessed. They need help."

He asked Romulus officials and the community at large to donate to the organization, which is located at 37510 West Huron Dr. The food pantry is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. It serves Romulus residents only who are referred there either by a social worker, teacher, minister or other authority figure and has provided that help for decades.

For more information or to donate, call (734) 941-5323.

Canton - Northville

Police continue investigation into gropings

Canton police continue to investigate two instances of sexual assault that took place last week at a local fitness center.

Officers were initially called to Lifetime Fitness on Haggerty Road in Canton at about 7 p.m. Nov. 28 in response to a call about a woman being approached and groped in the parking lot of the facility. According to police reports, the woman told officers she was walking through the parking lot talking on her cell phone when she was groped from behind by an unknown man.

Officers were again called to the facility at 9:30 p.m. on a second call regarding the same type of assault. This victim also told the officers that she was in the parking lot on her phone when the groping took place.

The women described their assailant as about 5-feet, 8-inches tall with a medium complexion and an average to stocky build. The women told police that the man was wearing black pants and a black hoodie sweatshirt. During the incidents, the victims said, the man had the hood pulled up.

Both women told police that they had immediately screamed at the physical contact and the assailant fled on foot through the parking lot. The victims could not tell officers where the man might have gone.

Police have requested anyone with information that might lead to the identity of the suspect call the Canton Police Department at (734) 394-5400.

Police added that individuals should exercise proactive safety habits in parking lots, including parking in well-lit areas and walking in groups when possible.

"Always be aware of your surroundings, and keep your head up. While shopping, avoid carrying too many packages, and have your keys out and ready to unlock the door to your vehicle or residence," officers suggested.

Canton sailor serves in historic Pearl Harbor

Dusty Good
Navy Office of Community Outreach

As the nation pauses to remember the attack on Pearl Harbor, which occurred 75 years ago on Dec. 7, 1941, the occasion has special meaning for a Canton Township native who is serving in the U.S. Navy in the very location that drew the United States into World War II.

Petty Ofc. 2nd Class Ryan Shepard, a 2008 Plymouth High School graduate, is assigned to the Navy U.S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters. According to Navy officials, the U.S. Pacific Fleet is the largest fleet command in the world, encompassing 100 million square miles, nearly half the Earth's surface, from Antarctica to the Arctic Circle and from the West Coast of the United States into the Indian Ocean. The U.S. Pacific Fleet consists of approximately 200 ships/submarines, nearly 1,100 aircraft, and more than 140,000 sailors and civilians.

Shepard is responsible for avionics systems on the P-3 aircraft.

"I like that my job gives me the chance to learn something new every day," said Shepard. "My job is a lot of fun."

Being stationed in Pearl Harbor, often referred to as the gateway to the Pacific in defense circles, means that Shepard is serving in a part of the world - the Pacific -- that is taking on new importance in American national defense strategy.

Pearl Harbor itself is home to more than 19,000 U.S. Navy sailors, 11 surface ships, 19 nuclear-powered submarines and 19 aircraft.

"I am honored to be here during such an important time," said Shepard. "I feel great carrying on the traditions from the men and women who served during that time."

While much has changed in 75 years, American Sailors' core attributes of toughness, initiative, accountability and integrity remain today. The last legacy of the heroism and determination exhibited on Dec. 7, 1941 is the heritage Shepard and other service members remain committed to live up to in the 21st Century.

"It's important for those of us serving in Pearl Harbor today to remember the sacrifice of those who served before us," said Admiral Scott Swift, Commander, U.S. Pacific fleet. "The important work we do every day honors those who were here 75 years ago and is a testament to the enduring value of our Navy's mission."

Petty Ofc. 2nd Class Ryan Shepard, a 2008 Plymouth High School graduate, is assigned to the Navy U.S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters at Pearl Harbor.

Man Who Shot Liberty Valance on Northville stage

The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance is the current production at Tipping Point Theater in Northville.

The story unfolds when an unconscious Ransom Foster is dragged into Hallie's saloon in the in the dusty, lawless town of Twotrees. He fell victim to Liberty Valance, an outlaw even the marshal refuses to challenge. Once recovered, Foster sets himself on leaving town, but finds something worth staying for as he begins teaching Hallie to read. He is given a purpose in a broken land, but is it enough to save him from the vicious outlaw who still wants him dead?

He must make the choice to turn and run or to fight for what he believes in. It's a classic western of good versus evil.

Curtain time for The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance is 8 p.m. and the show will continue through Dec. 18 Thursdays through Saturdays, with matinees at 3 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

"Audience members can expect an exciting classic Western story told in a Tipping Point way-up close and personal" said director Angie Kane Ferrante.

"This particular production is challenging for a number of reasons. The story also deals with the issue of racial discrimination, which can be difficult to handle when told inside historical context. It's a fundamental layer to the story that needs to be handled delicately and truthfully," she added.

The theater is located at 361. E. Cady St. in Northville. Tickets are $30 to $40 for adults, $28 to $33, for senior citizens, and $22 for the two preview shows on Nov. 17 and 18. For tickets or more information, call the box office at (248) 347-0003.

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Calendar of events

Tree lighting is tomorrow

The Christmas season officially arrives tomorrow night in the City of Romulus when the city Tree Lighting ceremony takes place at Romulus Historical Park Pavilion.

The official celebration will begin at 5:30 p.m. and there will be hot dogs, hot cocoa and other snacks available from concessionaires. The historical museum will also be open.

The Tree Lighting will take place at 6:30 and there will be group singing of seasonal carols during the event.

Photos with Santa will be available for $3 although the tree lighting ceremony is free and open to the public. Donations of nonperishable foodstuffs are requested for the Stuff the Bus campaign now under way to help the needy during the holidays.

Romulus Historical Park Pavilion is located at 11147 Hunt St.

Congregation meets Sunday

Redeemer Lutheran Church offers worship services at 11 a.m. Sunday at Tyler Elementary School, 42200 Tyler Road in Belleville.

For more information call (734)740-4230 or access www.redeemerlutheranchurch-mi.com.

Photographers to meet

The only 3D photography club in Michigan will meet on from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Dec. 14, at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center,15218 Farmington Road, just south of Five Mile Road.

The meeting will include the annual holiday pot-luck dinner, with live music performed by members. There will also be photographic items available and the meeting will conclude with a 3D image competition.

The meeting is free and open to the public. Stereo cameras, 3D movies, and educational videos are available for members to borrow or rent.

For more information, visit www.Detroit3D.org, or call (248) 398-3591.

Person of the Year sought

The Romulus Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations for the 2017 Romulus Person of the Year.

Completed forms, available at the chamber website, must be returned to the chamber office by 4 p.m. Dec. 16. The office is located at 11189 Shook Road, St. 200, Romulus, Mi 48174.

Later nominations will not be considered.

A committee will review the nominations and make the selection of the winning candidate. This is the 32nd year for the award in the city.

More information is available at (734) 893-0694 or admin@romuluschamber.org.

Interactive Story Time under way

The Romulus Public Library offers interactive Parent/Child Story Time for children 4 and younger and parents at 10:30 a.m. every Wednesday. The program is free and no registration is required. Story time helps prepare children for success in school and beyond and is presented in partnership with the Guidance Center.

For more information, contact the library at (734) 942-7589 or visit www.romulus.lib.mi.us. The library is located at 11121 Wayne Road.

Winter clothing collected

Plymouth Community United Way (PCUW) is looking for community members to donate new, warm winter items for the Hats for the Homeless drive which will continue through the month of December.

Donors are asked to drop off new hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, blankets, and socks at Plymouth Community United Way, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth, during business hours 7:45 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday and from 7:45 a.m. until 2:45 p.m. on Friday. All adult and children sizes are welcome.

Plymouth Yoga Room (474 Forest, Plymouth,) will also be collecting donations through the end of December.

For more information, call Randi Williams at (734) 453-6879, ext. 7 or e-mail randi.williams@pcuw.org.

Candy Cane contest begins

The Romulus Public Library is now accepting entries in the Candy Cane Counting Contest.

Entries will be accepted through Dec. 30 from those 18 and younger who must guess the number of candy canes in the jar. There will be one winner who guesses the total number of canes in the jar. In case of a tie, the library staff will choose a random winner to be announced Jan. 2.

The library is located as 11121 Wayne Road in Romulus. For more information call (734) 942-7589 or visit www.romulus.lib.mi.us.

Mill lighting planned

The Friends of Nankin Mills will host an old-fashioned celebration of the Christmas season from 4 until 6 p.m. Dec. 10 during the 29th Annual Mill Lighting. There will be arts and crafts opportunities for children, a community sing-a-long, and a special visit from St. Nick. The event is family friendly for all ages. For more information, call (734) 261-1850.

Breakfast With Santa served

Tickets for the Risen Christ Lutheran Church Breakfast With Santa will be on sale through Dec. 11 at http://bit.ly/2fTgarN.

The breakfast for about 100-150 will be served at 10 a.m. Dec. 17 at the church. Tickets are $15 for children older than 10, $10 for children 6-10 and children 5 and younger are admitted at no cost. Entertainment will be provided by Rennie and Esther Kaufmann and there will be real reindeer and a professional photographer on hand for photos.

The breakfast is catered by Thomas'.

The church is located at 46250 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth. For information, call (734) 453-5252.

Santa visits library

Santa will visit the Belleville Area District Library from 6:30 until 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12.

The library is located at 167 Fourth St. in Belleville.

For more information, call (734) 699-6352.

Parent Child Storytimes set

Interactive Storytime for parents and children is planned for 10:30 a.m. Dec. 14 and 21 at the Romulus Library for parents and children 4 and younger.

There will also be activities for parents and children at the free event.

This is a partnership with the Guidance Center. No pre-registration is necessary.

The library is located at 11121 Wayne Road in Romulus. For more information call (734) 942-7589 or visit www.romulus.lib.mi.us.

Senator sets public meeting

State Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D-Taylor) will host a coffee hour to discuss state and local issues of concern.

He represents the 6th Senate District, which includes the Wayne County communities of Belleville, Brownstown Township, Flat Rock, Huron Township, Rockwood, Romulus, Sumpter Township, Taylor, Van Buren Township, and Westland. The coffee hour will provide an opportunity for citizens to meet Hopgood and share their thoughts about current events in Lansing and the local community.

The Coffee Hour will take place at noon Dec. 12 at the September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Road in Van Buren Township.

For more information, call Hopgood's office at (517) 373-7800 or emailSenHHopgood@senate.cmilgov. Additional information regarding these events, contact Sen. Hopgood's office by calling (517) 373-7800, by emailing SenHHopgood@senate.mi.gov.

Library bakes Mug Cakes

The Wayne Public Library will host a demonstration of mug cakes at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 14.

The mug cakes are made in a microwave oven and the library will provide ingredients, toppings, and silverware, but participants should bring their own mug. All ages are welcome.

To register for this free program, sign up at the Adult Reference Desk or call the Wayne Public Library at (734) 721-7832.

The library is located at 3737 S. Wayne Road.

Gifts of art

Central PARC Art Studios will host a Holiday Open House and Pottery Sale from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Dec. 9 and 10 at the studio in the PARC, 650 Church St., Room 116, Plymouth. The sale opens with a 4-8 p.m. reception on Friday, Dec. 9. Handmade decorative, functional and whimsical works, presented by studio member artists, is the focus for holiday and all-occasion gift ideas, including ornaments, tiles, dishes and unique pottery priced from $5 to $400. The studio has easy access and parking at 180 Adams St., the Plymouth/Canton Community Schools Warehouse. For additional information visit Facebook.com/CentralPARCArtStudios or contact Leslie Greeneisen, (734) 578-1298 or email centralparcartstudio@gmail.com.

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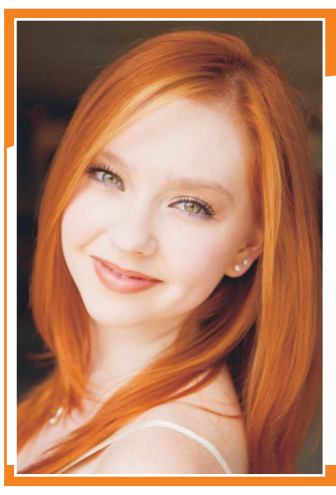
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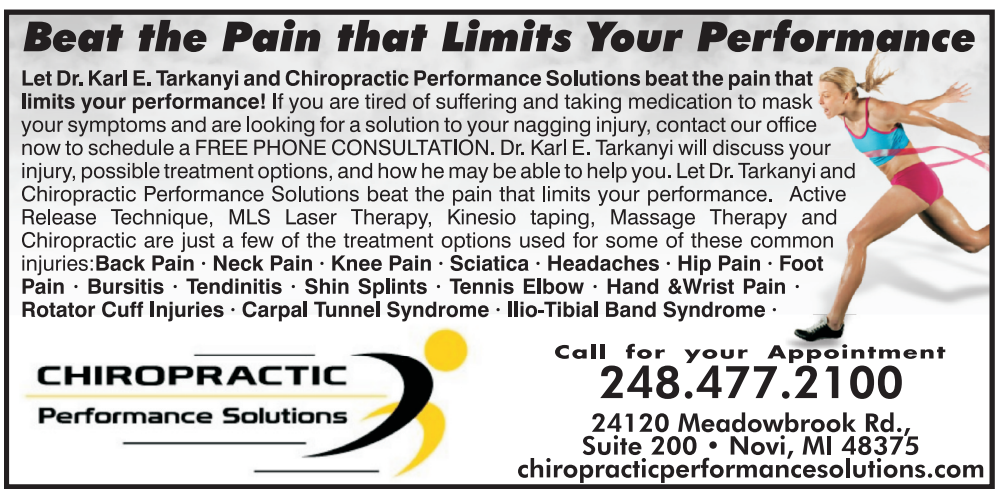
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